

Remarks:

In an Office action dated November 3, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the application contains patentably distinct species including:

- (1) Figure 2;
- (2) Figure 3;
- (3) Figure 4;
- (4) Figure 5;
- (5) Figure 6;
- (6) Figure 7;
- (7) Figure 8;
- (8) Figure 9;
- (9) Figure 10;
- (10) Figure 11;
- (11) Figure 12;
- (12) Figure 14;
- (13) Figure 15; and
- (14) Figure 16.

The Examiner indicates that claims 1, 17, 33, 34 and 48 are generic to the various species, and that all of applicant's claims will be considered upon allowance of a generic claim.

Applicant further notes that various of the indicated drawing figures illustrate features which are also disclosed in various other of the drawing figures. Furthermore, each of applicant's claims recite subject matter which illustrated in multiple of the

indicated drawing figures. The Examiner's characterization of species thus seems overly simplistic.

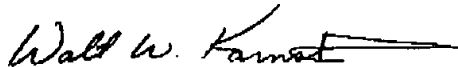
Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the claims on the merits, and in view of the Examiner's indication that the various indicated drawing figures illustrate patentably distinct species, applicant hereby elects Species 8 (Figure 9), with traverse.

Applicant further asserts that claims 1-4, 8-10, 12-15, 17, 18, 23-31, 33-38, 40-48 all read on Figure 9.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner R. Miller, Group Art Unit 2856, Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on December 3, 2004.



Christie A. Doolittle

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